

BUTTERFLIES OF THE WAGGA WAGGA DISTRICT, N.S.W.

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Situated approximately mid-way between Sydney and Melbourne on the main southern railway line, Wagga Wagga is 186 metres (609 feet) above sea level and straddles the border of the Riverina and South-west Slopes climatic districts. Temperatures vary from a few degrees below freezing in winter to 38°C+ (100°F+) in summer, with very little humid weather.

The author has been collecting in the district since 1970. Most of the butterflies recorded are probably resident in the district but, during the summer of 1970-71, five migrant or vagrant species (Nos 7, 8, 14, 17 and 21) were also recorded. There appear to be no previously published butterfly records from the Wagga district.

The nomenclature used follows that of Common and Waterhouse (1972).

HESPERIIDAE

1. *Trapezites luteus leucus* Waterhouse (Rare White-spot Skipper). One male was taken by Mr J. W. C. d'Apice on 16th October, 1969.
2. *Taractrocera papyria papyria* (Boisduval) (White Grassdart). A common species.
3. *Ocybadistes walkeri sothis* Waterhouse (Yellow-banded Dart). A common species, especially from January to March.

PAPILIONIDAE

4. *Papilio anactus* W. S. Macleay (Dingy Swallowtail). Adults occur from late October to May; the species breeds locally on citrus.
5. *Papilio aegaeus aegaeus* Donovan (Orchard Butterfly). Adults occur from late October to May; the species breeds locally on citrus.
6. *Papilio demeoleus sthenelus* W. S. Macleay (Chequered Swallowtail). November to April. Uncommon.

PIERIDAE

7. *Catopsilia pyranthe crokera* (W. S. Macleay) (Common Migrant). Adults appeared in March, 1971, in great numbers and included specimens of both forms, with black or pink antennae. Specimens of the form with black antennae also appeared on 31st March, 1973 and were seen in the area for approximately 3 weeks.
8. *Eurema smilax* (Donovan) (Small Grass Yellow). Several were seen and taken in April, 1971 and during April, October and November, 1973.
9. *Delias aganippe* (Donovan) (Wood White). Several females were taken from mid-January to April, 1971. Males were seen and taken in April, 1971. Further sightings were made in November, 1973.
10. *Anaphais java teutonia* (Fabricius) (Caper White). Adults have been taken at Wagga from late September or early October until late December. In 1973 they were also observed in mid-March, with a few specimens still present in May. A mass migration passed through Wagga from 18th-22nd November, 1973, from north to south.

11. *Pieris rapae rapae* (Linnaeus) (Cabbage White). Adults appear from late August to May. This is usually the first butterfly to appear after winter and the last to be seen before winter.

NYMPHALIDAE

12. *Danaus plexippus plexippus* (Linnaeus) (Wanderer). A male and a female were taken in April, 1971. One specimen was seen on 17th April, 1972 and another on 30th April, 1973. This species probably reaches Wagga each year but only in small numbers.
13. *Danaus chrysippus petilia* (Stoll) (Lesser Wanderer). Three males taken during April, 1971; sightings were made on 13th and 29th October and 4th November, 1971 and on 22nd, 23rd and 24th March, 1973. A number of females were sighted or captured during October and November, 1973.
14. *Euploea core corinna* (W. S. Macleay) (Oleander Butterfly). Three males were taken within 10 minutes of each other in mid-April, 1971 and others were seen. During the 1973-74 season this species has been common and has bred abundantly on Oleander throughout the town. The first sighting this season was 2nd November, 1973.
15. *Heteronympha merope merope* (Fabricius) (Common Brown). Males appear from late October to late December, and females from early December to April.
16. *Polyura pyrrhus sempronius* (Fabricius) (Tailed Emperor). Mid-November to April.
17. *Hypolimnas bolina nerina* (Fabricius) (Common Eggfly). A rather tattered male was taken at the Wagga Botanical Gardens in the late afternoon of 28th March, 1971.
18. *Vanessa kershawi* (McCoy) (Painted Lady). September to April.
19. *Vanessa itea* (Fabricius) (Australian Admiral). September to April.
20. *Precis villida calybe* (Godt.) (Meadow Argus). September to April.
21. *Acraea andromacha andromacha* (Fabricius) (Glasswing). Quite a few males and females were flying during March, 1971. A female was taken on 25th April, 1973.

LYCAENIDAE

22. *Lucia limbaria* Swainson (Small Copper). A male and a female taken January/February, 1971 and a female on 21st October, 1972.
23. *Theclinesthes onycha onycha* (Hewitson) (Onycha Blue). One taken on 1st April, 1973.
24. *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus) (Pea Blue). March and December.
25. *Neolucia serpentata serpentata* (Herrich-Schaffer) (Chequered Blue). One taken on 1st April, 1973.
26. *Zizina otis ladradus* (Godart). (Common Grass-blue). Very common. October to April.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

- Common, I. F. B. and Waterhouse, D. F., 1972. *Butterflies of Australia*. 4th Angus & Robertson, Sydney. Pp. i-xii, 1-498, illustr.